

Service Area Plan

Department Of Housing And Community Development

Homeless Assistance (45804)

Service Area Background Information

Service Area Description

This service area administers the Commonwealth's programs seeking to end homelessness in Virginia in partnership with local nonprofit organizations who serve the homeless, those at imminent risk of homelessness and persons with HIV/AIDS.

Funds are used for operational expenses for homeless shelters and transitional housing, support services, temporary rental and mortgage assistance, security deposits, and costs of construction, rehabilitation, acquisition and leasing of facilities for homeless individuals and families, low-income individuals and families at risk of eviction or foreclosure, mentally and/or physically challenged homeless persons, and low-income persons with HIV/AIDS and their families.

This service area also seeks funding for administering state housing and homeless assistance programs. A budget addendum is included in the Governor's introduced Budget Bill in HB30/SB30. This proposal requests general funds for administrative funds to support 3 of 8 FTEs assigned to the administration of housing and homeless assistance programs. The request is for \$199,585 per year. The other 5 FTE's are charged to NGF. The Housing Division of DHCD administers \$15.4 million in funding of which state general funds (GF) account for more than 50% of grant funds (\$8.2 million). No GF funds are available to cover administrative costs.

Service Area Alignment to Mission

By providing safety through shelters, homeless prevention programs and the creation of permanent supportive housing, this service area supports DHCD's mission of working in partnership with local service providers in providing low-income and homeless individuals and families safe and affordable places to live.

Service Area Statutory Authority

DHCD's primary authority is found within Title 36 of the Code of Virginia.

Chapter 8 provides for the establishment of the Department and sets out the general powers and specific duties of the agency's policy board and its director. This includes the authority to administer various federally-funded housing and community development grant programs, including those administered by the Division of Housing:

- HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME): National Affordable Housing Act, Title II, 1990, as amended;
- Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA): AIDS Housing Opportunity Act, Public Law 101-624;
- Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG): McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, Title IV, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 11371-78; and
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) [allocation from the Department of Social Services: Social Security Act, Title IV, Part A, as amended; Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193; Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Public Law 105-33.

Service Area Customer Base

Customer(s)	Served	Potential
Homeless individuals and families (Households)	16,900	27,000
Low-income individuals and families at risk of homelessness (Households)	2,300	3,000

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Service Area Products and Services

- Development of grant applications for funding from federal and non-federal sources
- Grants administration for HOME funds used for development of transitional housing, single room occupancy units, and tenant-based rental assistance; Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA); State Emergency Shelter Grant for operations and capital improvements (SSG)
- Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (HIP)
- Child Services Coordinator Grant (CSCG)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Child Care for Homeless Children (CCHCP)
- Single Room Occupancy Development (SRO)
- Customer service and training through annual training, technical assistance visits and monitoring visits
- Support and coordination for local Continuum of Care and other planning processes that result in increased collaboration and coordination in the delivery of services to homeless individuals and families

Factors Impacting Service Area Products and Services

- As housing costs continue to increase, the availability of low-income individuals and families to find and maintain housing will become more limited, which will cause an increase demand for products and services. A study of the Virginia Tech Center for Housing Research found a deficit of over 92,000 units for households below 30% of Median Family Income in 2000.
- State funds available for administration of 7 different funding sources allocated to over 150 different providers limits the ability to provide technical assistance and conduct monitoring activities.

Anticipated Changes To Service Area Products and Services

- Recent studies have indicated that direct access or rapid exit programs for homeless individuals and families are not only cost effective but also result in improved outcomes. DHCD is working with partner agencies to develop funding formulas that incorporate housing first as a primary means of ending homelessness. This change would impact the funding formulas for most of the grant programs currently administered.
- With the Commonwealth's goal of ending homelessness, improved data collection mechanisms are needed to track progress. A statewide reporting system is needed to reduce the incidence of duplicated counts related to the number of homeless and to track the outcomes related to services provided.
- The federal focus on the chronic homeless and housing, rather than services, is shifting resources away from programs serving the broader population of homeless individuals and families.

Service Area Human Resources Summary

Service Area Human Resources Overview

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Service Area Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Position Summary

Effective Date: 6/1/2006

Total Authorized Position level 2.85

Vacant Positions 0.6

Non-Classified (Filled)..... 0

Full-Time Classified (Filled) 2.25

Part-Time Classified (Filled) 0

Faculty (Filled) 0

Wage 0

Contract Employees 0

Total Human Resource Level 2.25

Factors Impacting Service Area Human Resources

Anticipated Changes in Service Area Human Resources

Service Area Financial Summary

	<u>Fiscal Year 2007</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2008</u>	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$8,265,220	\$8,996,964	\$8,265,220	\$8,996,964
Changes To Base	\$199,585	\$12,463	\$199,585	\$12,463
SERVICE AREA TOTAL	\$8,464,805	\$9,009,427	\$8,464,805	\$9,009,427

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Service Area Objectives, Measures, and Strategies

Objective 45804.01

Increase housing to homeless individuals and those at risk of becoming homeless.

This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:

- Increase the availability and affordability of safe and accessible housing throughout the Commonwealth.

This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

● **Measure 45804.01.01**

Number of homeless households securing permanent housing

Measure Type: Output **Measure Frequency:** Annually

Measure Baseline: 5,487 households exited to permanent housing from shelters in 2004-05 through nonprofits and local government programs.

Measure Target: 4,500 households will exit to permanent housing from shelters in 2007 & 08. With current plans to end homelessness, fewer households should be served and therefore, fewer households would exit shelters.

Measure Source and Calculation:

Service providers submit quarterly and annual reports indicating the status of households that leave their programs.

● **Measure 45804.01.02**

Number of households averting homelessness

Measure Type: Output **Measure Frequency:** Annually

Measure Baseline: In 2004-05, 2,258 households averted homelessness through assistance.

Measure Target: In 2007 & 08, 2,200 households will avert homelessness through assistance. The lower number reflects the increased cost of housing throughout the Commonwealth.

Measure Source and Calculation:

Quarterly and annual reports filed by grantees provide the number of households assisted and the number of households maintaining housing and averting homelessness.

Objective 45804.01 Has the Following Strategies:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of program design and award process to insure that financial resources are allocated to effectively performing programs
- Provide technical assistance and share best practice rapid exit and homeless diversion programs with local agencies
- Work with other state agencies to insure that households have access to programs and benefits that impact income and self-sufficiency
- Develop and implement funding strategies that move homeless services system toward desired outcomes

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- Implement a statewide homeless information system to provide reliable data by which to make funding decisions
- Submit at least 3 permanent supportive housing projects for a total of 50 units as part of Balance of State application each year
- Provide funding and technical assistance to developers of single room occupancy units for a total of 50 units each year
- Provide funding assistance through HOME's Match and Housing Assistance for the Homeless for a total of 100 units each year
- Work through the Virginia Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness to insure access to supportive services is maximized for sponsoring agencies providing housing for the homeless